Montana Department of Corrections

Our Mission

The Montana Department of Corrections enhances public safety, promotes positive change in offender behavior, reintegrates offenders into the community and supports victims of crime.

Message from the director:

Effective corrections is about innovation and a willingness to look beyond what has always been done in an effort to find more effective methods of supervising offenders. Montana correctional professionals are never satisfied with the status quo. We always want to further reduce recidivism, meet victims' needs and improve the chances for offenders to build crime-free lives that enhance public safety.

In Montana, we have been very successful in achieving those goals. Our incarceration rate is lower than that of 33 states, and our recidivism rate is below average among the states that measure it the same way. We are expanding the ability of victims to register for notification of offender status changes, operating meth treatment programs with good track records and broadening re-entry programs for inmates.

While these are significant developments in Montana's corrections system, we still face challenges. Crime continues to occur and some offenders fail to take advantage of services offered to them.

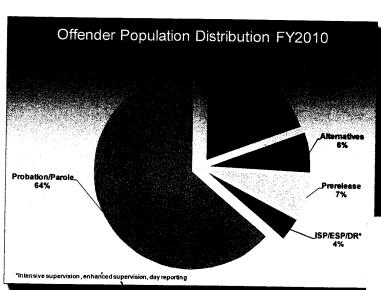
Tough fiscal times lie ahead as we continue struggling to maintain necessary services and programs in the face of limited revenue and tight budgets. We realize that, like all Montanans, the department must do some belt-tightening and look for ways to be efficient.

What we won't do is jeopardize public safety. Montanans expect offenders to be held accountable and have opportunities for rehabilitation. Those remain the mainstays of the Montana Department of Corrections' mission.

The effects of the recent economic downturn go beyond the budget. As the economy shrank, so did the number of jobs. Employment is a key for offenders trying to turn their lives around and the inability to find work can be a severe setback, especially for those being released from prison.

We provide an array of training programs to make inmates more employable when they return to their communities and Montana employers have always worked well with the department in helping offenders get and keep jobs. Employers deserve thanks from all Montanans for their contribution to public safety and their willingness to help others leave lives of crime behind.

By any measure, corrections is a very unique profession. We deal with an inherently unpredictable population and have little control over the number of offenders placed under our jurisdiction. But we continue



to look for new ways of doing business that are more effective and make wise use of taxpayers' dollars.

The Montana Department of Corrections boasts some of the most dedicated and professional public employees anywhere. They recognize that what they do makes a difference and can actually save lives. They work hard and get satisfaction from more than a paycheck. I consider it a privilege to work with them every day.

Law and Justice Interim Committee Meeting June 21, 2011

a Glance

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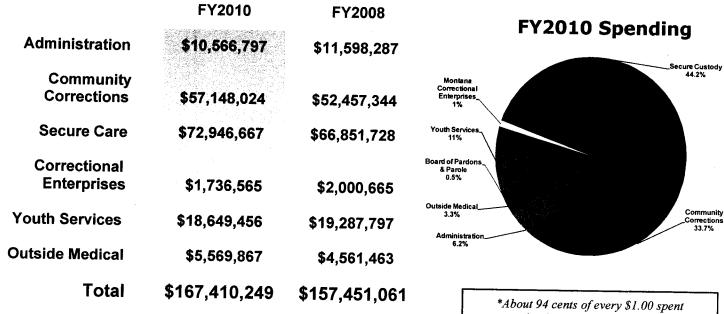
2009-10 in review

- Received a study of the state's methamphetamine treatment programs that found none of the nearly 300 offenders completing the program had been convicted of new drug crimes
- Collaborated with Montana State Prison's victim information officer to provide victim impact training for 300 offenders in the prison's intensive treatment units
- Reduced workers' compensation insurance claims, resulting in a 2011 premium decrease of \$473,000
- Revamped the Intensive Challenge Program (boot camp) at Montana Women's Prison into an orientation unit to better prepare new inmates for successful entry to the prison and therapeutic community model
- Developed and implemented features in the Offender Management Information System for tracking random drug testing, grievances, prison rape investigations, facility visiting, chronological entries, and victim information
- Decreased spending on overtime for Montana State Prison correctional officers by \$500,000 in two years and made progress in achieving adequate staffing relief factor
- Obtained reaccreditation from the American Correctional Association for juvenile parole and Pine Hills Youth Correctional Facility, with each program earning a perfect compliance rating of 100 percent
- Launched the "Corrections Distance Education Program," which provides staff 24/7 online access to training on a variety of subjects, automated enrollment and tracking of all online professional development
- Moved the START revocation and sanction center to new, larger quarters with 10 of the 30 additional beds designated for offenders with mental illness
- Using a federal grant, hired eight specialized probation and parole officers to focus on reducing recidivism among Native American offenders and those

- rural offenders with both mental health and chemical dependency problems
- Oversaw a budget in which spending was within 2 percent of projections for fiscal year 2010
- Reduced the number of on-the-job accidents at Montana State Prison by 39 percent due to efforts of the safety committee
- Increased academic achievement at Pine Hills and Riverside by at least one grade level in a 90- to 180-day time frame
- Developed a Re-entry Task Force, a cooperative effort by community corrections and prison system to help transition offenders without duplication of services and to coordinate with communities around Montana to ensure a continuum of care providing inmates with as smooth a transition as possible to their communities
- Expanded canteen services to all Montana correctional facilities, offering commissary services to more than 2,200 inmates without an increase in civilian staffing
- Supported Passages' partnership with Montana State University-Billings to offer classes including workplace math, family economics and financial education, fundamentals of writing and employment skills geared towards offenders
- Developed and implemented an agency fleet vehicle management program
- Launched a system that allows families of inmates to deposit money into inmate accounts using the Internet rather than cumbersome money orders
- Updated and transitioned the offender legal access system to a more efficient and cost-effective system
- Implemented the Youth Management System for tracking juveniles and electronically managing information about them

Y2010 Budget

Total General Fund Expenditures excluding Board of Pardons and Parole



pays for direct services to offenders.

Average Costs Per Day*

*excludes administrative costs

Adult	Montana State Prison	Montana Women's Prison	Contract Prisons	County Jail Hold	MASC	START	ISP
	\$87.91	\$109.05	\$67.86	\$63.56	\$74.81	\$72.37	\$8.11
	Probation and Parole	Prerelease Centers W/F	Meth Treatment M/F	WATCh (DUI) M/F	Boot Camp	CD Treatment (male)	Sanction Assessment CD Treatment
,	\$4.69	\$54/\$64	\$122/\$181	\$82/\$97	\$91.42	\$72.29	(female) \$74.23

Pine Hills Riverside Youth Transition Juvenile **Facility** Facility Centers **Parole** \$257.39 \$391.10 \$260.64 \$73.19

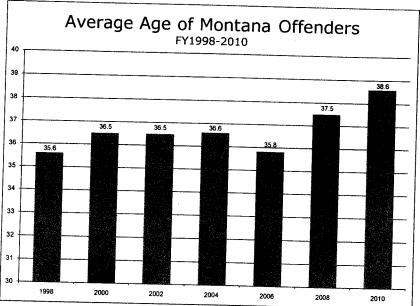
Any direct comparison of these average daily costs must take into account many variables among correctional facilities and programs, including staffing, daily populations, programming, treatment, type of offenders managed and custody levels served.

- Assisted offenders in obtaining almost 2,700 personal documents in the past two years, including state identification cards, Social Security cards, birth certificates and driver licenses, to assist them when leaving prison
- Launched post-secondary education certificate and associate degree programs through Flathead Valley

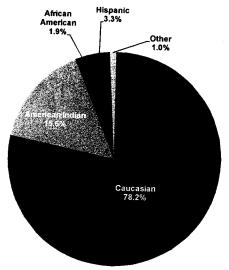
Community College and Dawson Community College, utilizing grant funding for youthful offenders

Offered for inmates the STEPS (Steps to Economic and Personal Success) and New Directions programs, which are designed to change beliefs and attitudes that cause behaviors leading to incarceration

By The Numbers...



Ethnicity of Offenders



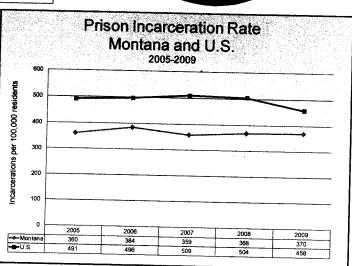
Top 10 Conviction Offenses

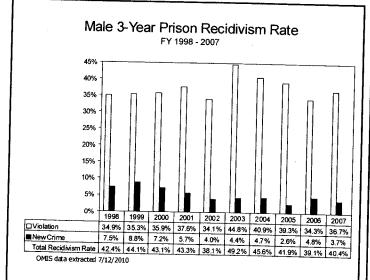
Males

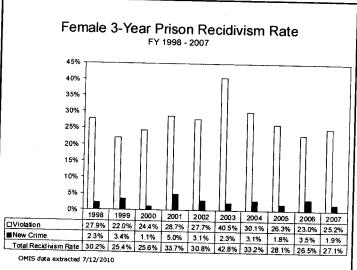
- 1. POSSESSION OF DRUGS
- 2. FELONY DUI
- 3. THEFT
- 4. CRIMINAL ENDANGERMENT
- 5. BURGLARY
- 6. DISTRIBUTION OF DRUGS
- 7. ASSAULT WITH A WEAPON
- 8. ISSUING A BAD CHECK
- 9. PARTNER/FAMILY MEMBER ASSAULT
- 10. POSSESSION WITH INTENT TO DISTRIBUTE

Females

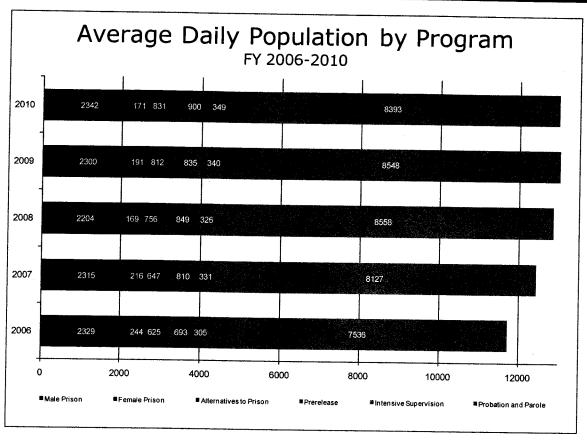
- 1. POSSESSION OF DRUGS
- 2. THEFT
- 3. ISSUING A BAD CHECK
- 4. FORGERY
- 5. FELONY DUI
- 6. CRIMINAL ENDANGERMENT
- 7. FRAUDULENTLY OBTAINING DRUGS
- 8. DISTRIBUTION OF DRUGS
- 9. DRUG OFFENSES OTHER STATE
- 10. POSSESSION WITH INTENT TO DISTRIBUTE





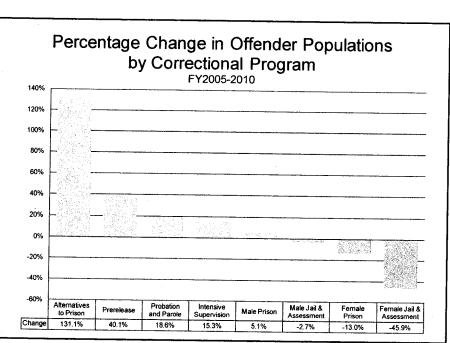


Population

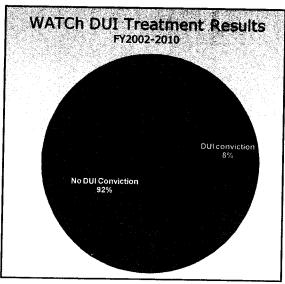


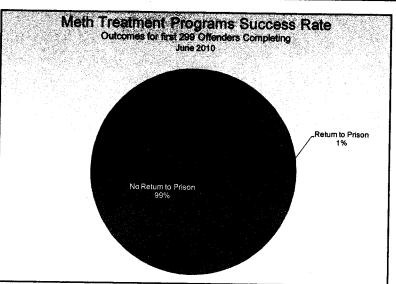
The total offender population increased 1 percent to 12,986 between fiscal years 2008 and 2010. The Department of Corrections continues its efforts to manage offenders in programs and facilities other than prison. Such programs can cost 24 times less per day than prison and provide more individualized focus on an offender's needs. In fiscal year 2006, almost 22 percent of the average daily population was in prison. In fiscal year 2010, that had dropped to 19.3 percent.

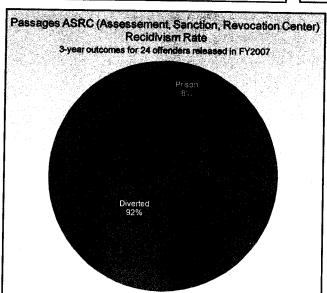
Since 2005, the offender population in alternatives to prison – primarily treatment programs – increased 131 percent and the prerelease center population grew by 40 percent. The number of offenders on probation or parole rose by more than 18 percent while the intensive supervision program expanded by more than 15 percent. At the same time, the male prison population increased only 5 percent and other secure populations declined.

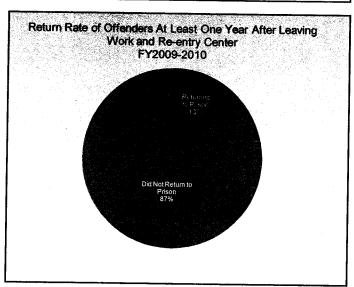


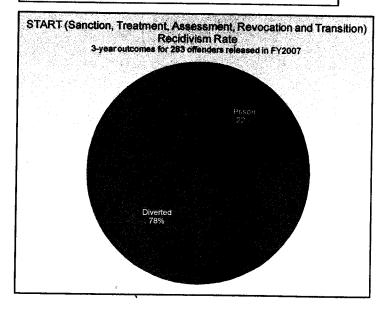
Programs











Montana's emphasis on treatment programs for offenders has produced positive results. From the WATCh program for felony drunken-driving offenders at Warm Springs and Glendive to the START revocation center at Anaconda and from the meth treatment centers in Lewistown and Boulder to the Work and Re-entry Center at Montana State Prison, a large majority of offenders completing these programs are successful.

Directory

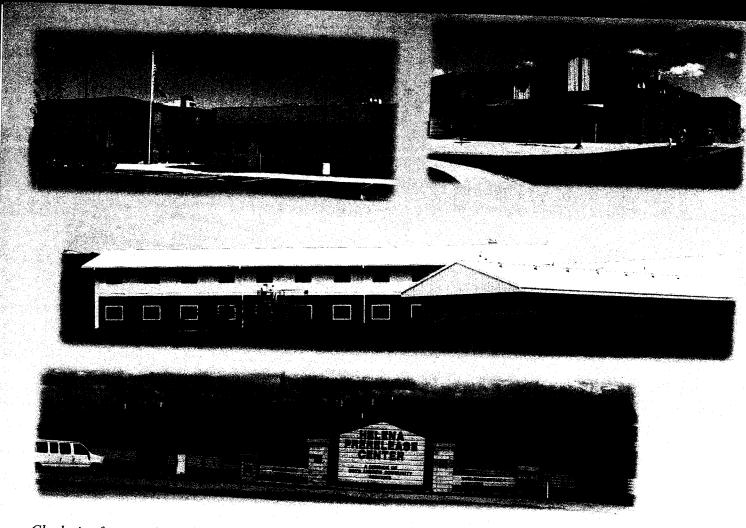
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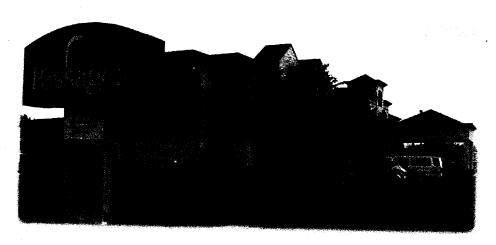
Facilities

Some of the correctional facilities operated in the state of Montana



Clockwise from top left: The new START revocation and sanction center near Anaconda, Great Falls Prerelease Center, the Work and Re-entry Center at Montana State Prison, Helena Prerelease Center and Passages Women's Center in Billings

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